MICHAEL I. PUPIN

An Appreciation: by Frank B. Jewett

Because of his prominence for many years in the fields of science and engineering, and particularly in the field of electrical communication, the announcement on March 12 of the death of Dr. Michael I. Pupin of Columbia University is a matter of deep regret to a large number of telephone people.

While never officially connected with the Bell System, Dr. Pupin had for more than thirty-five years played an important part in the development of the Bell System. His invention of loading as a means of greatly extending and improving the transmission characteristics of open wire and cable circuits was a vital factor in the development of a comprehensive nationwide telephone system. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company purchased Dr. Pupin's patents on this invention at the time of their issuance. This outstanding invention raised Dr. Pupin to the front rank of scientific men and brought to him recognition from all parts of the world.

Although the loading invention was unquestionably the principal of Dr. Pupin's contributions to the art of electrical communication, it was not by any means his only contribution. Particularly in the field of high frequency transmission, both by wire and by radio, Dr. Pupin's work added notably to progress.

Throughout the many years of his contact with the scientific work of the Bell System Dr. Pupin contributed in many ways which were not and could not be measured in terms of concrete things. The close personal friendships which were established between him and General Carty, Mr. Gherardi and myself, were valuable in the opportunity which they gave us to partake of his wise counsel and advice. Nor was this counsel confined wholly to matters of science and engineering, for Dr. Pupin was a man of great wisdom and force in many matters.

He was endowed with a lovable disposition which impelled him always to extend help where he could. This was particularly noteworthy in his attitude toward young men. It was his boast that his greatest achievements were not the results of his scientific work, but his discovery and training of men who later attained to eminence.

In his death the Bell System has lost an ardent and steadfast supporter of its work and its policies, and many of its members individually have lost a cherished friend.